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2. in charge of
Braintree & Bocking

URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

C. R. C. RAINSFORD

M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

FOR THE YEAR

1957

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

BRAINTREE and BOCKING
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health

C. R. C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector

S. F. BAYLEY, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

W. G. THURSTON, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

H. W. CHILDS, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (Until March, 1957)

Clerk

N. D. GAYLER

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
Town Hall, Braintree.
June, 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the annual report for 1957 on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the district. Once again I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer for details of the health services controlled by the Essex County Council.

Later in this report you will find much statistical information with regard to births, deaths, prevalence of infectious diseases, etc.; in these opening remarks I will merely comment on some of the more important features brought out by the figures.

Vital Statistics

Total births numbered 335, and deaths 219, both figures are slightly higher than in 1956.

The corrected birth rate is 18.1 per 1,000 and the corrected death rate 10.7 per 1,000, these figures can be compared with the rates for England and Wales which are 16.1 for births and 11.5 for deaths.

Eleven infants under 1 year died compared with 5 in 1956, and the infantile mortality rate of 32.8 is above that of England and Wales (23.0).

Analysis of the death returns shows that there were 92 deaths from diseases of the cardio vascular system, including vascular disease of the nervous system, and 41 from malignant tumours. Of the latter 10 were from cancer of the lung or bronchus.

Notifiable Infectious Disease

The large total of 1,030 cases notified consists mainly of measles with 950 and whooping cough with 50. The last big epidemic of measles was in 1951, when there were 609 cases, and it is interesting to note that in that year there was also a relatively high incidence of whooping cough with 104 cases. In 1957, March was the peak month for measles with 634 cases, followed by April, with 198. The peak incidence of whooping cough was 19 in April. 577 of the measles patients were in the 5-10 age group and 7 were adults, one of whom was admitted to hospital. There were no deaths. Although measles is as common to-day as ever it was we can take comfort in the knowledge that modern drugs can control or cut short its more unpleasant complications.

Whooping cough can, however, be controlled or at least modified by immunisation, and I would advise all parents to be more zealous in seeing that their children are adequately protected at an early age, i.e., from 3 months onwards.

After 3 years without Poliomyelitis we had one case of the paralytic and one of the non-paralytic disease in 1957. Both cases were in young adults and occurred in February and in August.

Five cases of dysentery were notified. All were mild and in every case pathological examination proved negative.

The one case of food poisoning was probably caused by eating fish cake made from tinned salmon.

Only 2 cases of pneumonia were notified throughout the year, yet death returns from pneumonia numbered 10. This inconsistency is not confined to Braintree, but it shows that the whole system of notifying infectious diseases needs revision.

Influenza

Influenza was head line news long before it reached this country. It was reported from China, Hong Kong and Singapore in April and May. The disease travelled westwards and by the end of August cases were being diagnosed in Europe.

As Influenza is not a notifiable disease it is impossible to give exact figures as to its incidence in the Braintree district. However, with the aid of information received from general practitioners, school teachers and welfare officers it is possible to sketch in the general picture.

Influenza reached Braintree in early September and was firmly established by the third week. Doctors were seeing 50 to 60 cases a day and thought that many others were treating themselves. Headteachers reported absentee rates of from 30 to 40%. Some classes had to be closed down due to lack of teachers. Although the disease at first was commonest amongst the school children it soon spread to the adults. The large factories in the town were naturally affected, but not as badly as I had expected. There was no serious disruption of industry. By the second week in October the absentee rate in the schools showed a marked drop although new cases were still occurring in adults. The epidemic gradually worked itself out and had practically ceased by the end of the year.

During the height of the epidemic we stopped the Saturday cinema shows for children. I am most grateful to the Manager of the Cinema for his co-operation in this matter. Generally speaking, this particular branch of influenza, although acute, was

not very severe. Most patients were out of bed in 4 or 5 days. Complications did occur, but were not common. There were 8 deaths from Influenzal Bronchopneumonia. Six of these patients were over 60 years of age, one was 55 and the other 24.

Tuberculosis

The Mass Radiography Unit from the Broomfield Hospital visited Braintree in October. Their arrival was preceded by propaganda through the press and by distributing posters and leaflets. Special sessions were arranged for schoolchildren, factories and the general public. The sessions were well attended as will be seen by reference to the tables to be found later in this report.

Mass radiography is a most valuable method of bringing to light early cases of tuberculosis, with great benefit to patients and contacts. It is not possible to give the number of cases detected during this survey, but the usual figure is about 2 per 1,000 persons surveyed.

Immunisation and Vaccination

Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough were carried out as in previous years by General Practitioners and at the Braintree Clinic. In addition I arranged immunisation sessions at the schools and it is due to the success of this innovation that the number of children immunised against diphtheria showed a welcome increase over previous years. Full details can be found later in the report.

The vaccination of children against Poliomyelitis which started in 1956, was continued in 1957. The supply of vaccine was not always satisfactory, but a total of 908 children received their first injection and 513 the second.

Water

In my 1956 report I commented on the difficulty experienced in maintaining an adequate supply to meet the increasing demands, and I noted that Ministry sanction had been obtained to sink a trial bore hole at Codham Mill.

It is satisfactory to know that this trial bore was completed during 1957, and that the quantity and quality of water proved satisfactory. This is a big step forward, but, of course, much remains to be done before the new water is circulating through the mains of the town.

It is interesting to recall that your Committee first discussed the need for augmenting the water supply as far back as 1938. In 1939 a firm of Consulting Engineers suggested certain possible new sources and it was proposed to sink a bore at Codham Mill. Objections were raised by other water users and with the intervention of the war the scheme had to be shelved. The matter was re-opened after the war, and in 1949, after a Public Enquiry held at Braintree, the Minister of Health refused permission to develop the Codham Mill site on the grounds that the water resources of the area would be over pumped. Alternative sites were investigated but they proved unsatisfactory, and eventually the Ministry withdrew their veto on the Codham site. It was not, however, until 1956 that all objections had been met and sanction obtained to go ahead with the trial bore.

I have to thank the Surveyor for much of this information.

Sewage

Extensive improvements and reconstruction works were completed at the Braintree Sewage Works during 1957. Further information is given later in this report.

The Bocking Sewage Works are grossly overloaded and it is hoped that it will be possible to tackle this problem at an early date.

Housing

I am informed by the Housing Officer that there were 540 names on the waiting list for Council houses on 31st December, 1957. Not all of these people are in urgent need of re-housing, but the problem is still a formidable one. Slum Clearance is going ahead albeit rather slowly, and I hope it will be possible to re-house dwellers in condemned houses rather more expeditiously in the coming years.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

It was necessary to have one old lady removed under the provisions of this act. She was living alone in very unhygienic surroundings and was quite unable to look after herself. She was admitted to St. Peter's Hospital, Maldon, where I understand, she settled down well.

It is again a pleasure to record my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support, and to the Chief Public Health Inspector and officers of the Council for their willing support at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

C. R. C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
Town Hall, Braintree.
June, 1958.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRAINTREE AND BOCKING
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors for the year 1957.

There was an increase in the number of animals slaughtered and requiring inspection compared with last year and this duty again accounted for the major part of your inspectors' time. The Central Government has recognised the fact that this duty falls heavier on some authorities than others and in 1957 instituted a scheme for financial assistance to those authorities who have to deal with the inspection of meat in excess of that normally required for its own population. The Council qualified for a grant under the scheme.

The supervision of food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations was continued, although on a reduced scale, following the departure of the inspector appointed for this purpose, but I am pleased to be able to report that the majority of premises in the Council's area have been brought up to a high standard.

It will be noted too, that the ice cream manufactured in the district was of a high standard of purity.

The progress of the Council's programme for the clearance of unfit houses remains slow and it will be necessary to quicken the rate of rehousing from these areas if the programme is not to get further behind schedule.

The number of houses rendered fit under the Public Health Act or the repair sections of the Housing Act is about average, but the number of such houses shown in the report does not include those repaired by owners as a result of undertakings or by voluntary action under the Rent Act, 1957. This number is considerable and is one aspect of the Rent Act which has perhaps been somewhat overlooked.

I thank you for your support throughout the year and acknowledge the help and co-operation of my staff.

I also wish to record my appreciation of the service given by Mr. Harold Childs who left the Council's employ early in 1957.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. F. BAYLEY,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,811
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,490
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,223
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£241,651
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£943

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Total	M	F	
Legitimate	314	163	151	
Illegitimate	21	8	13	
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	18.1
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.00	...	...	...	18.1
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	...	...	16.1

STILL BIRTHS:

	Total	M	F	
Legitimate	7	5	2	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	20.5
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	22.4

MATERNAL MORTALITY:

Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	Nil
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INFANTILE MORTALITY:

Deaths of infants under 1 year—

	Total	M	F	
Legitimate	10	10	—	
Illegitimate	1	1	—	
Mortality rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				31.8
Total infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	32.8
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	23.0

DEATHS:

	Total	M	F	
	219	111	108	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	11.8
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.91	...	...	...	10.7
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	...	...	...	11.5

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar-General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1957

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

				Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomach	...	...	4	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	9	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	8	13
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	1	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	13	19
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	12	11
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	3	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	9	17
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	4	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	3	5
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	8	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	4	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	—	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	2	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	25	21
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	1	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	1	—
All Causes				111	108

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:—

(i) **Braintree**—Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coggeshall Road:—
Attendances

Speech Therapy	Every Monday	10 a.m.	
Child Welfare	Every Tuesday	2 p.m.	2,307
Ante-Natal and Women's Welfare	Every Wednesday	10 a.m. (By Appt.)	370
Minor Ailments	Every Tuesday	10 a.m.	203
Dental	Mon., Wed. & Fri. (all day)	10 a.m. (By Appt.)	2,273
Diphtheria Immunisation	1st Friday	3 p.m.	

Bocking—Village Hall.

Child Welfare	4th Thursday	2.15 p.m.	163
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(ii) Home Help Service:—

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service:—

The Ambulance Station is situated in Cressing Road, Braintree. A full 24 hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services:—

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:—

(i) Chest Clinics:—

These are held weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics:—

These are held every Wednesday afternoon and 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coggeshall Road, Braintree.

Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Black Notley Hospital.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT 6C, BROOMFIELD HOSPITAL, CHELMSFORD. BRAINTREE 1956-57

	No. X-rayed on miniature film	No. recalled for full-size film	No. recalled for investiga- tion	No. referred to chest clinic
Crittall Mfg. Co., Ltd.	912	25	4	4
Others	7	—	—	—
Courtaulds Ltd., Braintree	234	3	—	—
Courtaulds Ltd., Bocking	532	13	—	—
Schoolchildren	744	9	4	1
Others	29	1	—	—
Organised groups	928	15	5	5
Public session	1108	33	4	3
Doctors' cases	5	2	—	—
Totals	4499	101	17	13

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diseases	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	5	—	—
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	950	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ..	1	1	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Pneumonia ...	2	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	3	—	—
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	13	4	1
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	3	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	50	—	—
Totals ...	1030	8	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	At all Ages	under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and Over	Age Unknown
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	950	14	55	77	87	107	577	26	1	4	2	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ..	13	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	—	4	3	—
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	50	7	5	1	3	8	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1030	22	60	78	90	116	603	30	5	11	2	10	3	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

Disease	Total Notified	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	950	10	68	634	198	36	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	13	2	1	1	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	2	2
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	50	—	—	2	19	8	2	6	9	2	2	—	—
Totals 1030		14	76	637	217	48	7	8	10	3	2	5	3

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 - 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 - 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 - 5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 - 15	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 20	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 - 35	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 - 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 65	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	6	7	2	1	—	1	—	—

Of these 2 were cases renotified on taking up residence in the District during 1957.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year				Children who were given a reinforcing injection during the year			
By General Practitioners		By County Staff		By General Practitioners		By County Staff	
1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956
(a) 159	(a) 131	131	66	72	69	412	91
Totals: 1957 - 290 1956 - 197				Totals: 1957 - 484 1956 - 160			

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

Children who completed a full course of immunisation under the County Scheme				Records of combined diphtheria pertussis immunisation received	
By General Practitioners		By County Staff			
1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956
—	4	36	7	(b) 131	(b) 125
Reinforcing injections	1957 1956	1957 1956		1957	1956
—	2	—	43	34	24

Figure (b) is included in (a)

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

	1957	1956
Number vaccinated during the year:	160	122
Number re-vaccinated during the year:	136	66

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

	1957	1956
Number of 1st injections given during the year:	908	
Number of 2nd injections given during the year:	513	94

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The Council's deep wells at the Notley Road Waterworks and the Bocking Waterworks were the only sources of supply used in 1957. All water was chlorinated before passing into the service mains.

The Council, having obtained the necessary licence, sank a trial borehole at Codham and test pumping was carried out for a period of four weeks. At the time of writing this report, it appears likely that the Council will be able to go forward with the scheme at Codham for the extraction of about six million gallons per week.

The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination during the year was as follows:—

		Raw Water	Water in Supply	Total
Notley Road Waterworks	...	2	2	4
Bocking Waterworks	...	1	4	5
Codham Mill Borehole	...	4	—	4

All the above samples were satisfactory.

Samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and the results of two samples are given as follows:—

Sample from Braintree Waterworks, 25.3.57.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals, apart from a very minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate, its content of mineral and saline constituents, although somewhat high, is not considered excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character, and suitable for public supply purposes apart from its known content of fluorine being higher than the figure considered most desirable.

Sample from Bocking Waterworks, 26.6.57.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals, apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character, but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

Water Consumption in the District

The amount of water pumped during 1957 was:—

		Gallons
Notley Road Waterworks	...	209,570,000
Bocking Waterworks	...	99,168,000
Total		308,738,000

I am indebted to the Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer for these figures.

Based on a total population of 18,490, and allowing for 155 persons occupying 52 houses, who do not obtain a supply from the public mains, these figures represent an overall consumption of 46.1 gallons per head per day. The amount of water supplied through meters for trade and agricultural purposes was 62,846,294 gallons, which is equivalent to 9.4 gallons per head per day, leaving a net consumption per head per day of 36.7 gallons for domestic purposes.

The amount of water pumped rose by 10½% over last year. The Water Engineer is having difficulty in maintaining an adequate supply at all times and the pumps are frequently in use for 24 hours a day.

At present it is estimated that 18,335 persons who occupy 6,171 houses, are served by public mains. Of these, approximately 92 houses with an estimated population of 278 are served by 47 standpipes, 41 of which are situated in the open. There are also a considerable number of houses served by the public mains whose only supply is a tap situated in a washhouse entered from the yard.

There are 52 houses with private supplies, only 34 of these being piped inside.

New water mains were laid at High Garrett and on development sites at Challis Lane and Queenborough Lane.

Over a mile of seven inch and six inch water main was laid in the Coggeshall Road and Cressing Road area in replacement of an old main.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

I am indebted to the Surveyor for the following information relating to the reconstruction of the Braintree Sewage Works which was completed during the year. This work included the construction of a new screen chamber, detritus pits and the conversion of four old settlement tanks into storm water tanks with provision for treating three times the dry weather flow. Two new settlement tanks of the inverted pyramid type were constructed with provision for de-sludging by hydrostatic head.

Three new 100ft. diameter filters were installed with new dosing chambers and four existing high level filters were fitted with new distributors and dosing chambers, the four old low level filters being converted into sludge drying beds. The capacity of the two humus tanks was increased and further supplemented by the construction of a new tank and the outlet channel was stepped to increase the aeration of the effluent before discharge. Other works included a new flow recorder and an office block with a small laboratory attached.

There has been a steady improvement in the quality of the effluent discharged from the works and although not yet entirely satisfactory as regards suspended matter it is expected that this particular feature will soon be remedied.

Samples of effluent from the Bocking Works continued to be unsatisfactory and the Council decided to engage a Consulting Engineer to prepare a report with a view to the improvement and enlargement of these works.

The new surface water sewer for the Clare Road area was completed early in 1958.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of household refuse continued without serious interruption throughout the year in all parts of the District. This service is under the control of the Surveyor.

The tip at Rifle Hill, which was fenced during 1957 to prevent unauthorised entry, was again used for the disposal of refuse.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

(1) Number and Nature of Inspections

During the year 1957 the following inspections were made by the Public Health Inspectors to the premises detailed:—

Nature of Inspections			Primary Inspections	Revisits	Total Visits
Housing—Housing Act	...	...	39	49	88
Housing—Public Health Act	...	...	40	76	116
Other Visits—Housing Act	...	...	49	55	104
Other Visits—Public Health Act	...	...	289	233	522
Notifiable Diseases	...	...	13	26	39
Water Supply and Sampling	...	...	20	1	21
Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	4	—	4
Milk Sampling	...	...	5	—	5
Food Hygiene Regulations and Food Bye-laws	...	...	59	199	258
Other Visits—Food and Drugs Act	...	...	17	12	29
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	3	—	3
Ice Cream Sampling	...	...	31	—	31
Meat and Food Inspection:—					
(a) Slaughterhouses	...	...	2851	7	2858
(b) Shops	...	...	79	4	83
(c) Markets	...	...	51	1	52
Factories Act (Power)	...	...	1	1	2
Factories Act (Building Sites)	...	...	13	1	14
Drainage	...	...	46	72	118
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	302	6	308
Overcrowding	...	...	2	—	2
Rent Act	...	...	56	11	67
Moveable and Temporary Dwellings	...	...	27	15	42
Vermin and Insect Pests	...	...	12	15	27
Rat Infestations	...	...	4	3	7
Interviews Owners/Builders	...	...	31	—	31
Knackers Yard	...	...	16	1	17
Swimming Baths and Sampling	...	...	48	—	48
Miscellaneous	...	...	108	6	114
			4216	794	5010

(2) NOTICES SERVED, ETC.

Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	92
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	108
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	24
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	31

(3) Sanitary Defects and Nuisances

	Defects Etc., Found	Work Done or Abated
(a) HOUSING		
Defective roofs, rainwater pipes, etc. ...	12	22
Other external defects ...	10	18
Damp walls ...	3	10
Internal defects ...	16	12
Defective yard paving ...	1	1
(b) GENERAL		
Defective W.C.'s and W.C. structures ...	13	20
Houses without dustbins ...	3	2
Houses with defective dustbins ...	69	80
Offensive accumulations ...	1	—
Vermin infested houses ...	2	2
Other nuisances ...	5	8
(c) DRAINAGE		
Choked drains and W.C.'s ..	46	46
Defective drains ...	7	10
New drains tested and passed ..	—	2
Old drains tested ...	—	6

HOUSING

The Council completed 52 houses, 8 flats and 4 maisonettes during 1957. In addition 81 houses were built privately.

Clearance Areas

Only three families were rehoused from clearance areas during the year.

A Compulsory Purchase Order was made comprising nine houses in Old Police Station Yard, and the New Street Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956, was confirmed by the Minister with minor modifications.

Individual Unfit Houses

One family was rehoused following a formal undertaking not to re-let.

Undertakings were accepted in respect of four houses under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.

Repair of Houses

Thirty-eight houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action under the Housing Acts and the Public Health Act.

As a result of formal action one house was rendered fit under the Housing Act and one under the Public Health Act.

Eighteen houses were inspected jointly with the Surveyor following applications for improvement grants. Schedules of necessary repair work were prepared and sent to applicants in respect of six of these houses.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	16	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	91	2	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	31	14	—	—
Total ...	138	16	—	—

II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	—	—	—	—

Atmospheric Pollution

Part of the Clean Air Act, 1956, which consolidates and amends legislation with regard to atmospheric pollution, came into operation on 31st December, 1956. The remainder, which is mainly concerned with the emission of dark smoke, will take effect at a later date.

An overloaded steam plant at one factory which in the past had caused a considerable amount of smoke to be emitted was converted to oil fuel burning during the year and has since given no reason for complaint.

The local arrangements for measuring certain aspects of atmospheric pollution commenced in 1957. The apparatus for measuring the daily concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere began in January, and the gauge for measuring deposited matter and the Lead Peroxide Instrument for measuring sulphur dioxide, which are recorded as monthly figures, were put into operation in April.

The results obtained from these instruments have not been tabulated as the recordings will have to extend over a few years before useful conclusions can be drawn.

Shops Act, 1950

No visits were made under this Act during the year.

Moveable Dwellings

Three licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were operative during the year.

Eleven licences were granted in respect of individual caravans for specified periods.

Forty-two visits were made by your inspectors to all the sites concerned.

Swimming Pools

Two open-air swimming baths, one of which is owned and operated by the Council, were in use during the year.

A careful check was kept on these baths, and in addition to the visits made for the purpose of taking samples of the water, field tests for available chlorine were made at frequent intervals.

Eleven samples for bacteriological examination were taken from the Council owned pool. All were of satisfactory standard except one from the Children's Pool which contained *Bact. coli* in minimal numbers.

Five samples for bacteriological examination and one sample for chemical examination were taken from the privately owned pool and were reported upon as being satisfactory.

Insect Pests

Two cases of infestation with bed bugs were discovered during 1957, one in a Council owned house and one in a private house. These were successfully treated with a five per cent. solution of DDT.

Three dwelling houses found to be infested with fleas were treated with liquid insecticide.

The occupiers of private slaughterhouses were advised and assisted regarding fly control and the premises kept under surveillance.

Advice and assistance was also given to occupiers regarding ants and other pests in respect of eighteen premises.

Steam Disinfector

This apparatus was not used during the year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three licences to keep pet shops were renewed during the year 1957, and one new licence was granted. Two licences were also renewed to sell pets from market stalls.

Rent Act, 1957

The Rent Act, which came into force on the 6th July, 1957, amended existing legislation and controls some rents according to the gross rateable value.

The following sets out the number of visits made and other relevant details in this connection.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.			
Number of visits (including re-visits)	...	...	67
Number of applications for certificates	...	...	41
Number of decisions to issue certificates			
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	25
(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	14
Number of undertakings given by landlords under			
Paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	22
Number of undertakings refused under proviso to			
Paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	Nil
Number of certificates issued	...	...	12

Applications for Cancellation of Certificates			
Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates			1
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...		Nil
Decisions to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	...		Nil
Certificates cancelled	...	...	Nil

Rodent Control

The services of a full time rodent operator were again shared with neighbouring authorities. The Council continued the scheme for the maintenance of rodent control whereby a grant of 50 per cent. of approved net expenditure was made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The work done during the twelve months ending 31st March, 1958, was as follows:—

Total number of inspections and re-inspections	...	1,045
Number of properties found to be infested and treated:—		
Major	...	12
Minor	...	122
Mice	...	29
Number of "block" control schemes carried out	...	3

During the period covered by this report, your Council continued the free treatment of domestic premises and the treatment of business premises upon a rechargeable basis.

Legal Proceedings

There was no recourse to court action during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The Council are responsible for the registration of milk distributors and dairies other than dairy farms and is the licensing authority in respect of dealers and supplementary licences for Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Six distributors and two dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies' Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949:—

Dealers Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	4
Supplementary Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	2
Dealers Licence for Pasteurised Milk	...	...	3
Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk	...	...	2
Dealers Licence for Sterilised Milk	...	...	3

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

Four samples of pasteurised milk and one sample of tuberculin tested pasteurised milk were submitted for the statutory tests and proved satisfactory.

Ice Cream

Two local manufacturers and their premises were registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream. The premises were kept under surveillance and no contravention of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, was observed during the year.

Seventy-five certificates of registration were in force covering vendors of ice cream retailing from shops and mobile vans in the area. A few vendors registered elsewhere in the County of Essex also operated in the Council's district.

Twenty-eight samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the methylene blue reaction with the following results:—

Manufactured in District			Manufactured outside District		
Eleven	in Provisional Grade	I.	Five	in Provisional Grade	I.
Six	in Provisional Grade	II.	Three	in Provisional Grade	II.
Nil	in Provisional Grade	III.	One	in Provisional Grade	III.
Nil	in Provisional Grade	IV.	Two	in Provisional Grade	IV.

The bacterial quality of the ice cream manufactured in the Council's Area was of a high standard.

The two Grade IV samples and the Grade III sample of ice cream manufactured outside the District were from a common source. Further investigation showed that the product had deteriorated in quality due to inexperienced handling on the retailer's premises. The retailer accepted advice from the Department and subsequent samples showed improvement.

Meat

There are five slaughterhouses in use in the District, one of which is also licensed and used for the slaughter of horses.

There was an overall increase in the number of animals slaughtered compared with the previous year. All animals, including horses, slaughtered in the Council's area were inspected. This work necessitated a considerable amount of work outside normal office hours, including Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The Government introduced a scheme for payment of a grant to local authorities who were carrying a heavy burden in connection with meat inspection. The Council qualified for a grant of £290 in respect of the financial year 1956-1957.

Horseflesh slaughtered for human consumption in the Urban District is sold outside the Council's area.

Three goats slaughtered for human consumption were also inspected.

The following sets out the particulars of animals slaughtered and of inspections and condemnations during the year:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	3098	340	685	9600	15273	1084
Number Inspected	3098	340	685	9600	15273	1084
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:—						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	4	3	4	9	1
Weight in lb. condemned	1033	1969	140	155	1382	912
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned						
Weight in lb. condemned	327	54	5	75	662	138
Percentage affected	3157	1628	11	193	1800	2647
Percentage affected	10.60	17.05	1.17	0.82	4.40	12.80
Tuberculosis only:—						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	—	1	—	1	—
Weight in lb. condemned ...	1794	—	48	—	100	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned						
Weight in lb. condemned	314	30	1	—	341	—
Percentage affected	2942	617	1	—	3463	—
Percentage affected	10.20	8.40	0.29	—	2.22	—
Cysticercosis:—						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned						
Weight in lb. condemned	13	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	215	31	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	3	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected	0.42	0.29	—	—	—	—

The carcasses and other offals of cattle found to be infected with localised cysticercus bovis were sent for refrigeration treatment in a neighbouring town. Three beasts were found to be so affected and sent for refrigeration.

All condemned meat and offals were collected on behalf of the Council by a private contractor and after treatment used for animal feeding. This system provides adequate safeguards to public health.

Other Foods

As a result of inspections carried out at food shops and food preparing premises in the district, the following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

	lb.		lb.
Bacon	140	Tinned Milk	21
Cheese	193	Tinned Peas	19
Tinned Corned Beef	217	Preserves	15
Egg Albumen	7	Sausages	18
Tinned Fish	3	Tinned Tomatoes ...	15
Tinned Fruit	288	Tinned Vegetables ...	20
Tinned Ham	305	Miscellaneous	8
Tinned Meats	285		
TOTAL—1555lb.			

The food was disposed of either by burial at the Council tip or diverted, where suitable, to the Council pig food scheme, with the exception of the egg albumen which was returned at the request of the manufacturer for re-pasteurisation.

Food Preparing Premises

The number of premises totalling 193 where food is prepared, stored or retailed is as follows:

Hotels and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	42
Restaurants (including Snack Bars)	...	...	...	17
Works Canteens	...	...	...	8
School Canteens	...	...	...	9
Butchers	...	...	...	14
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	2
Wet and Dried Fish Shops	...	...	...	10
Bakehouses	...	...	...	10
Bread and Cake Confectioners	...	...	...	4
Grocers	...	...	...	45
Greengrocers	...	...	...	12
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	19

Of these numbers, shops dealing with more than one of these items are classified once.

Details regarding milk and ice cream appear under separate headings.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Some two hundred fewer visits in connection with these Regulations were made during 1957, in fact, after Mr. Childs left the service of the Council in March, it was only possible to make a few visits to premises under the Regulations owing to the pressure of other work, particularly meat inspection. For this reason many of the contraventions found and notified to occupiers after initial visits in 1956 and early 1957 remain on record against the premises although from experience of those premises which have been re-visited it is believed that all but a few minor defects have been attended to.

Details of the various contraventions found are given below:—

Regulation			Contraventions Found	Remedied
6	Cleanliness of equipment, etc.	...	1	10
8	Food to be protected from risk of contamination	...	2	10
14	Sanitary conveniences	...	2	11
16	Wash hand basins to be provided	...	3	16
17	First-aid materials to be provided	...	2	7
18	Accommodation for clothing, etc.	...	2	11
19	Facilities for washing food and equipment	...	2	9
20	Lighting of food rooms	...	1	—
21	Ventilation of food rooms	...	1	—
23	Cleanliness and repair etc. of food rooms	...	2	15
24	Accumulation of refuse, etc.	...	—	5
25	Temperature at which certain food is to be kept	...	1	—
26	General requirements as to stalls	...	—	4

Where there is more than one contravention of a regulation in respect of any premises it is recorded once only in the above table.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, relating to the sampling of food and drugs are administered by the Weights and Measures Department of the Essex County Council. The Chief Inspector of that Department has kindly supplied the following details of the samples taken during the year:—

Arrowroot	...	...	...	...	1
Cheese	...	...	...	...	1
Christmas Pudding	...	...	...	...	2
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	1
Currants	...	...	...	...	1
Dessicated Coconut	...	...	...	...	1
Gelatine	...	...	...	...	1
Glace Cherries	...	...	...	...	3
Ground Almonds	...	...	...	...	1
Malt Vinegar	...	...	...	...	4
Marzipan	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	44
Mince-meat	...	...	...	...	1
Mixed Peel	...	...	...	...	1
Mushroom Soup	...	...	...	...	1
Raisins	...	...	...	...	2
Sultanas	...	...	...	...	1
Table Jelly	...	...	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	...	...	1
Tinned Plums	...	...	...	...	1

Of the milk samples 12 were of school milk and 16 of milk delivered to hospitals and institutions.

Deficiencies were revealed in three samples:—

One sample of milk proved to contain 1% of added water.

One sample of Glace Cherries contained an excess of sulphur dioxide (50 parts per million over the permitted 100 parts per million).

The tinned plums were sold as Victoria Plums, but proved to be Giant Prunes.

The original suppliers of these products were traced and appropriate action taken in each case.

